

Army Industrial Hygiene Newsletter

Summer 2004

This newsletter is published by Industrial Hygiene and Medical Safety Management (IHMSM) for the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine as a service to the Army Industrial Hygiene Program, Federal agencies, and industrial hygienist throughout the Federal and private sector.

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DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Insights Into The Industrial Hygiene Profession:

Where Do We Need To Go And How Are We Going To Get There?

A message from Ms. Donna Doganiero, USACHPPM Director of Occupational Health Sciences and President of The American Industrial Hygiene Association.

The practice of industrial hygiene in the Army has changed from focusing on the installation/garrison to the soldier and the deployment environment. Our specialized career field is evolving to an interdisciplinary practice of Environment, Safety and Occupational Health. At the 2003 PCIH, (Professional Conference on Industrial Hygiene) a review of a survey of private and public sector employees showed that as industrial hygienists, we spend approximately 53% of our professional time on traditional industrial hygiene, 22% on safety, 12% on environment, and 13% on other tasks.

These numbers support our need to broaden our knowledge base and become more of a Generalist. The future of our career depends on enhancing our professional development in areas of safety and environment. Just a few years ago we stressed the need to talk the "management talk" and to promote our value to the organization. Today that still holds true, however we also need to expand our marketability. A recent study found that the segment with the best employment opportunities were those who could classify themselves as generalists. In this survey over 58% of the future opportunities in the field would go to generalists, with 13% of the opportunities in environment and less than 10% of the employment prospects open for the specialties of industrial hygiene, safety, and health/medical alone. The survey also found that prospects for employment over the next 3-5 years would be in consulting, manufacturing, and academics. Employment in areas of health services, insurance, research, services and transportation were less optimistic

So where do we go from here? How do we become generalists while still stressing the importance of achieving technical certification in our career field? Look around our circle of professionals, we are graying! How will we attract younger people into the profession? Do we have the right mix of technical courses in our educational system to produce a workforce? AIHA is asking these same questions and is challenged to formulate short and long term goals aimed at addressing these questions. These concerns are no different for those of us in the public sector.

These are questions with more than one correct answer. To become a generalist, you must assess your current education and skills and draft an Individual Development Plan (IDP). Your employer may have limited training funds, so you must explore other alternatives such as Army Knowledge On-Line (AKO) courses that are free. You may have to take classes at nights and on weekends at your own expense.

If you already have your certification in Industrial Hygiene, maybe you should pursue a Certification as a Safety Professional or Certification as an Environmental Trainer. Attracting younger people to the profession will require a large network of senior professionals interested in preserving the profession and willing to dedicate their time to mentoring. Our success in meeting demands of the workplace and the marketplace depends heavily on our own motivation and involvement.

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DOEHRS

HHIM/DOEHRS-IH UPDATE

There is a lot of activity going on with the HHIM and the development of the DOEHRs-IH application. Please remember that if you experience problems with your current HHIM system, our POC for HHIM helpdesk support is Mr. Lovett Davis. He can be reached at DSN 584-4539, Commercial 410-436-4539, or email at Lovett.Davis@us.army.mil. To submit a helpdesk ticket log onto <https://dohrswwww.apgea.army.mil/occhealthportal/> (if you can't access the DOEHRs Occupational Health Portal from this email newsletter, paste the link directly in your internet browser's address bar).

DOEHRS-IH Status

The Defense Occupational and Environmental Health Readiness System (DOEHRS) is a DOD project that falls under the Military Health System (MHS) with direct oversight provided by MAJ Steve Spellman, at Falls Church, VA. Although the Army currently provides a significant amount of personnel support to the project its funding stream and decisions come from the Health Affairs/MHS organization.

As a brief review, the DOEHRs-IH is being development as a Web-based application that follows the DOD Joint Technical Architecture, and MHS guidelines. In order to run the application, users must have Internet Explorer v 6.0 or higher, and Internet access via a Local Area Network (LAN). The biggest change in functionality is the implementation of the new DOD Exposure Assessment Model that utilizes similar exposure groups (SEGS) and the Store and Forward capability. As users, you will receive a Tablet PC that will be able to connect to the Internet, download data from a transactional server and then disconnect from the Internet to take with you to the field to electronically collect survey data. These are significant changes in how we do IH business in the Army.

So, what is the schedule and strategy for DOEHRs-IH implementation and training? Block 1 of DOEHRs-IH is scheduled for completion in spring 2005. Currently it is in Developmental Testing and Evaluation (DTE). In the Dec-Feb time frame it will go through formal Government IH testing referred to as Operational Test and Evaluation. This will occur at selected sites in the services. For the Army our test sites are Fort Lewis and Select CHPPM-Europe sites. If this testing goes well, the implementation and training is scheduled to begin in June 2005.

Our approach to training will be two-fold. First, you will receive training on the DOD Exposure Assessment Model, as this is a new way of doing business in the Army, followed by 3 days of hands on training on the application. Our biggest challenge as always is going to be funding. The DOEHRs Program will fund the trainers and all the necessary training material to include the Tablet PC's. The Services are required to fund the travel costs to bring the users to the selected training sites. We are in the process of finalizing our training sites in the Army and may also use Navy and Air Force sites if it is more cost effective. Unfortunately, because of funding limitations, initial training will be scheduled so at least one IH staff member at each location will be funded to receive training. If your installation is selected as a training site, then all of your staff will receive the initial training, as there would be no travel cost required. We are still crunching the numbers and working the funding issue. More information will be shared as we move closer to the implementation dates.

DATA CONVERGENCE: The only data we will look at for converting is HHIM 3.0 data. So what's the status about getting your HHIM data converted so you can use it in DOEHRs-IH? There are many truths and myths about converting data. It's not as easy as it looks and there will always be some data that once converted will be missing some information now required by the new application. A Contract has been let to Network Management Resources (NMR). They are under contract to develop a conversion tool to convert HHIM 3.0 data DOEHRs-IH. Meetings begin this month for development of the tool which is expected to be complete July 2005.

Your DOEHRs-IH POC's for the Army are [Bill Monk](#) or [Kevin Wisniewski](#).

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TRAINING SECTION

Force Health Protection Conference

The 7th Annual Force Health Protection was a huge success. Over 1,500 occupational health, preventive medicine and health promotion professionals enjoyed 4 full days of lectures, exhibits, and posters. Key notes speakers included MG Kiley, the Army Surgeon General; the Honorable Heather Wilson, US Representative from New Mexico, and MG John Doesburg, Commander RDECOM. The weather in Albuquerque, New Mexico was very accommodating, making the evening social events a pleasant experience.

The 8th Annual Force Health Protection Conference will be held 8-11 August 2005 at the Galt House in Louisville, Kentucky. A great way to fund your travel to the conference is to be a speaker or present a poster. USACHPPM sponsors the conference and will provide travel and partial per diem to approved speakers and selected poster presenters. The conference is also an excellent venue to collect ABIH maintenance points as well as CEUs and CMEs. Visit the USACHPPM web site for the 2005 FHP Conference Call for Papers and Posters.

<http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/>

Highly Qualified Industrial Hygiene Interns Available for Vacant GS Positions

The Department of Army Industrial Hygiene Interns will graduate from their 2-year training program 28 December 2004. These are highly motivated individuals with extensive classroom training in safety, industrial hygiene and other related subjects. Field experience varies depending on the location of their internship and may include work in medical treatment facilities, chemical demilitarization activities, and garrison operational activities.

If you have a vacant GS-690-11 position and are interested in contacting an intern, please call or e-mail: Sandy Monk, USACHPPM, 410.436.3161, <mailto:Sandra.monk@us.army.mil>

Intermediate Industrial Hygiene Topics Course

COURSE DATE: 7-18 March 2005

LOCATION: Edgewood, MD

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: 30 January 2005

REGISTRATION FEE: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course provides training and continuing education in technical aspects of industrial hygiene topics. Specific content varies from year to year depending upon current issues. However, the course addresses the principle topics of respiratory protection, chemical protective clothing, and industrial ventilation.

PREREQUISITES: Applicants must have a BS in a related field or attended the 6H-F11, "Basic Industrial Hygiene Course," presented at the AMEDD Center & School, Fort Sam Houston, Texas or attended an IH Course either through AIHA, OSHA or an accredited university. Course spaces are reserved for MEDCOM military and civilian personnel. Other qualified personnel can attend on a space available basis.

SPONSOR: AMEDD Center and School, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, and USACHPPM, Industrial Hygiene, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland.

REMARKS: There are no CHPPM funds for this course. All expenses are the responsibility of your unit/ installation. For further information concerning course content, contact Industrial Hygiene Ms. Paula Knudson, Training Coordinator at DSN 584-2439 or commercial (410) 436-2439.

TO REGISTER: Go to the CHPPM website, the course is listed under Training and Conferences.

<https://usachppm.apgea.army.mil/TrainCon/datePage.aspx>

AIHCE 2005 CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

DEADLINE FAST APPROACHING - October 5, 2004

The premier conference and exposition for OEHS professionals Celebrating Innovation May 21-26, 2005 Anaheim, CA We invite you to submit a presentation that will inform, educate, and enlighten OEHS professionals from around the world while providing practical solutions and fresh ideas for the 21st century challenges awaiting the profession.

BENEFITS OF PRESENTING: Transform the profession with groundbreaking ideas Gain recognition for your expertise Share knowledge with your community Gain approval to attend AIHce 2005 Earn points towards your certifications

VARIETY OF FORMATS: Choose from 3 presentation formats, Content flexibility: Case Study/Professional Practice or Scientific Research

WIDE RANGE OF TOPICS (partial listing): Aerosols, Biological Monitoring, Community Environmental Health, Ergonomics, Exposure Assessment Strategies, Indoor Environmental Quality, Industrial Hygiene General Practice, Management and Training Issues, Physical Agents, Risk Assessment, Safety, Sampling and Analysis
Complete guidelines for presentation submissions can be found at the AIHce 2005 website www.aiha.org/abstracts.html.
All submissions must be received electronically by 5:00 pm CDT, October 5, 2004. Submissions received after the deadline will not be considered. NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE***The American Industrial Hygiene Association, 2700 Prosperity Ave, Suite 250 Fairfax, VA 22031

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ERGONOMICS

The 35th issue of "DoD Ergonomics Working Group News"--detailing more than 150 Ergo Studies and Assessment Reports is available to you.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE WORKING GROUP'S PRODUCTS AND SERVICES, GO TO OUR NEW AND IMPROVED WEB SITE AT <http://www.ergoworkinggroup.org>

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LINK SECTION

Now available online is the September 2004 issue of Joint Commission EC News

Highlights include: Scoring Revisions Benefit Environment of Care, Case Study in Coordinating Community Emergency Management, and Recommendations for Preventing Health Care-Associated Respiratory Infections.

See this information-packed issue by clicking here:

<http://jcrinc.co.mansellgroup.net/UM/T.asp?A2557.38100.893.1.65022>

NOISH e News

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/enews/enewsV2N5.html>

Health and Safety Reference Site

Check this out! Health and Safety Reference Site containing sample written programs and other professional support materials

http://www.doa.state.wi.us/pagesubtext_detail.asp?linksubcatid=169&linkcatid=127&linkid=

North American Emergency Response Guidebook On-Line

This is the quick guide for emergency responders during the initial phase of a hazmat release.

The new Guidebook can be downloaded at <http://hazmat.dot.gov/guidebook.htm>

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